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made, has a good index and sufficient foot-notes for ordinary high-school purposes. For popular use or for high-school libraries it will be a useful little volume.

*Collections of the Nebraska State Historical Society, Vol. 17,*  
Edited by ALBERT WATKINS, Historian of the Society, Lincoln,  
Nebraska, pp. 381, 1913.

There are twenty-five papers in the volume, eight of which deal with subjects local to Nebraska. There are six dealing with overland travel in the pioneer days, "A Tragedy of the Oregon Trail," by George W. Hansen; "The Oregon Recruit Expedition," by Albert Watkins; "Influence of Overland Travel on the Early Settlement of Nebraska," by H. G. Taylor; "First Steamboat Trial Trip Up the Missouri," by Albert Watkins; "Adventures on the Plains," by Dennis Farrell; "The Pathfinders," by Heman C. Smith, are some of the titles. Besides these there are several papers of a professional nature. A number of beautiful illustrations, taken chiefly from Maximilian's *Travels* add to the attractiveness of the volume.

Nebraska is very fortunate in being able to thus gather up her early, or pioneer, history from the lips of the pioneers themselves. No one who has not compared such stories as those contained in this volume with the best that historians can do can appreciate what is lost to history when the pioneers are gone.

THREE pamphlets, edited by THOMAS J. BROOKS, have lately been received by the Survey. One of these is a biography of Lewis Brooks, colonel of the Eightieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was one of the early settlers of Martin county, living first at Mount Pleasant and later at Loogootee. His experiences as a merchant and flatboatman before the war are suggestive.

Another pamphlet of sixty-one pages contains the biographies of Thomas Jefferson Brooks, 1805-1882, and his family. The family history begins in the old home in Massachusetts in 1635 and extends down to the Indiana home in 1906. The old Brooks home was in Mount Pleasant, Martin county. At this place it is the custom of the descendants of the pioneer to gather occasionally in a family reunion. The third pamphlet, seventy-six pages, contains a description of one of these reunions held August 7, 1908, at Mount Pleasant by the Brooks and Houghton descendants.

The pamphlets are full of interesting bits of pioneer history,